

TANFIELD
Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER, 1913.

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1914.



STANLEY,

February 25th, 1914.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present your Council with my Annual Report upon the condition of the district with regard to (i) The Natural and Social Conditions, (ii) Sanitary Circumstances, (iii) Sickness and Zymotic Diseases, (iv) Factory and Workshops Act, and (v) Vital Statistics.

The Natural and Social Conditions.

Your district is a scattered one, and shows no indication of rapid development in any one direction. Although the climatic conditions are prone to affect the aged and the young, I consider this lack of development tends greatly to the good health of the inhabitants, for whenever a village assumes the aspect of a town the vitality of the inhabitants suffers in a more or less degree. The district is entirely supported by the coal mines, and therefore a tendency to build in the close vicinity of the mines is natural.

In 1911 the population was 10,105, and in 1913 the population was 10,600, estimated to the end of June on the average per house in accordance with the census of 1911.

Hospital Accommodation.

The Tanfield Isolation Hospital is provided by the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board for all cases of infectious diseases occurring in the district. A Sanatorium at Maiden Law in the Lanchester Rural District, and a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Stanley are supplied by the County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The whole of the District receives its Water Supply from the sources of the Weardale and Consett Water Company. The Watershed is the Waskerley Fells. The water is of a peaty nature, and there has been no reason to question the purity of the supply.

Sewage Disposal.

No change has taken place in the treatment of Sewage, with the exception of a further addition of land at Burnopfield and Tantobie. The methods adopted are the Bacteriological Filtration System and Broad Irrigation.

Sanitary Conveniences.

During the year 29 Old Privies and Ashpits have been converted into Water Closets, and 23 new houses have been provided with water closets, making a total of 52 for the year. At Lintz Colliery, Friarside, Hobson, Mountsett and Tanfield Lea, 98 midden privies have been converted into earth closets. In the district there

are 139 water closets, 669 ashpits and midden privies, and 1369 earth closets. In future, all new property must be provided with water closets.

Scavenging and Removal of Refuse.

This work is satisfactorily done by contract under the supervision of your Inspector.

Milk Supply.

The milk supplied to your district is of good quality and adequate in quantity. The utensils were found to be satisfactory in regard to cleanliness and storage.

Schools.

The schools are well ventilated and lighted, and the sanitary conditions are in good order, each school being provided with water from the public service. The children of the various schools are periodically examined by the County School Medical Officers, who work in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health.

Housing.

Fifty-one new houses were erected during the year. They were situated as follows : 22 at Tanfield Lea, 12 at Pickering Nook, four at White-le-Head, two at Tantobie, and five at Burnopfield. With the exception of six of these at Tanfield Lea, which were Aged Miners' Homes, all contained four or more rooms with self-contained yards ; 23 were provided with water closets and the remaining 28 with earth closets of a modern type.

Old Property.

Thirty-eight houses have been condemned as unfit for habitation and 16, situated at White-le-Head, Tantobie and Tanfield, have been demolished. Five houses have been re built at Tanfield, and 15 at Tanfield Lea are undergoing repairs, some being closed, all due to subsidences. There is still a large amount of old property in the district requiring attention.

1. The number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909	...	66
2. The number of dwelling-houses which, on inspection, were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	38
3. The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to making of closing orders	21

4. The number of closing orders becoming operative	}	16
5. The number of dwelling-houses, the defects in which are being remedied without the making of closing orders		
6. The number of dwelling-houses which, after the making of closing orders, were put into a fit state for human habitation	}	5
7. A general character of the defects found to exist		
	Dampness, defective roofs, walls, plastering, spouting and general dilapidation.	

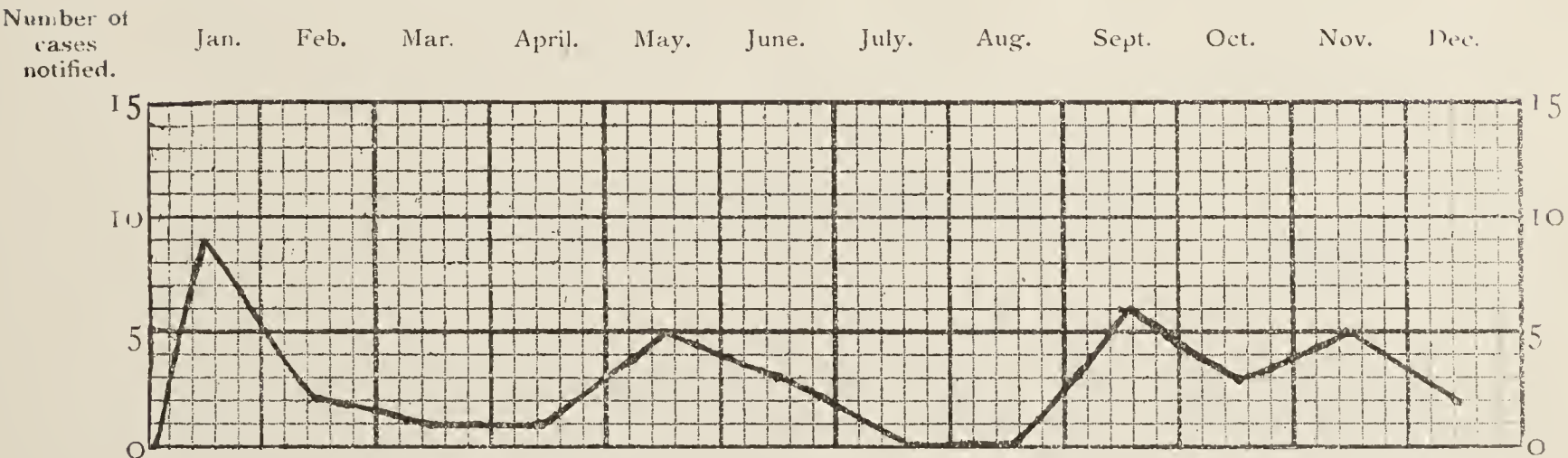
213 Formal and Imformal Notices have been served in regard to insanitary property.

SICKNESS AND ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The number of cases of notifiable diseases reported in the past year shows an increase over that of the previous year, being 150 as compared with 123 for 1913, but this increase is entirely due to "Other forms of Tuberculosis," which were not notifiable in 1913.

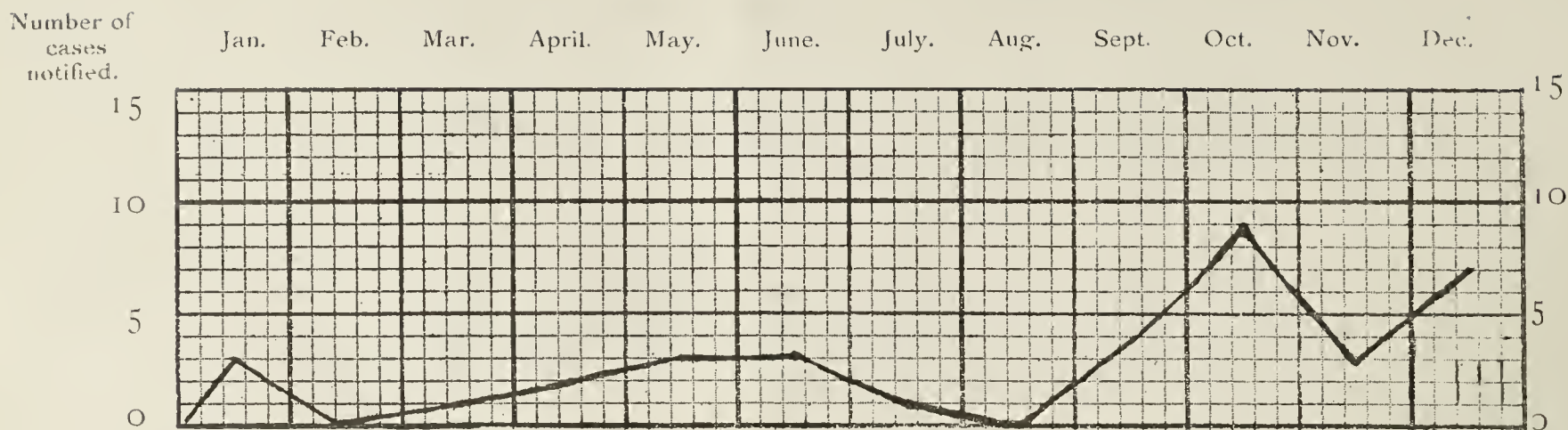
Scarlatina.

Thirty-seven cases were reported, which exceeds the number for the previous year by two. Of this total 21 were transferred to the Hospital and three proved fatal. The following chart shows the periods of greatest incidence.



Diphtheria.

The number of cases of Diphtheria reported compares very favourably with that of 1913, being 37 as compared with 45 for the previous year ; 27 were removed to the Hospital and two succumbed. A small quantity of Serum has been distributed to the various practitioners in the district. This is chiefly for the purpose of treating cases which cannot be removed to the Hospital until the lapse of some hours, viz. : cases occurring late in the evening. A supply is also kept at the Council Offices for the purpose of renewal.



Enteric Fever.

It is very gratifying to report that no cases of Enteric Fever occurred during the past year.

Poliomyelitis.

One case of Poliomyelitis was reported, but the diagnosis was doubtful and the child made a complete recovery.

Tuberculosis.

Twenty-one cases of "Pulmonary Tuberculosis" and 26 of "Other forms of Tuberculosis" were notified. A local dispensary for the treatment of all cases of Tuberculosis has been opened in Stanley and is visited weekly by one of the County Tuberculosis Officers. Maiden Law Sanatorium, which was formerly under the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board, is now under the jurisdiction of the Durham County Council. Your Lady Health Visitor visits all cases of Tuberculosis, and reports to the County Medical Officer of Health upon the social condition of the patient, together with the sanitary condition of the residence, and any matters requiring attention are notified by him to your Medical Officer of Health.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.

No epidemic occurred throughout the year, but the disease was fairly prevalent in the months of March and April. Only two deaths resulted. The danger of the disease lies in the sequelæ, rather than in the disease itself, and if parents would realise this danger fewer deaths from Bronchitis and Broncho-pneumonia would result.

Whooping Cough.

No deaths were due to Whooping Cough.

Diarrhoea and Epidemic Enteritis.

Thirteen deaths were attributed to these causes, which number is in excess of the previous year, but the increase was doubtless due to the warmer summer of 1913. These diseases are caused in a great measure by contamination directly by dust from streets and ashpits, or indirectly by flies acting as carriers of infection to the milk.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

There are 14 Factories and 21 Workshops in your district, and on periodical inspection only three minor defects were found and these were soon remedied. No material injurious to health is used in any of these works.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Three hundred and four births and 136 deaths were registered during the year, which, estimating the population at 10,600 to the end of June, gives a birth-rate of 28·67 and a death-rate of 12·8 per 1,000. Both rates are lower than the previous year's, and also lower than the rates for the County for 1913, those being 30·6 and 15·1, the death-rate in particular being considerably lower.

The deaths from Zymotic diseases were made up as follows :—
Scarlatina 3, Diphtheria (including Membraneous Croup) 2, Enteric Fever 0, Measles 2, Whooping Cough 0, Diarrhoea (including Epidemic Enteritis) 13 ; total 20. This number gives an increase of 5 over the previous year, which was due to the greater prevalence of Diarrhoea and Epidemic Enteritis.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Thirty-nine deaths occurred under the age of one year, giving a rate of 128·2 per 1,000 births. Although this rate is rather higher than that of the previous year it compares very favourably with the County which stands at 137. Of the total of 39, eight were due to Congenital Debility, two to Premature Birth, and four to Congenital Malformations; Respiratory diseases accounted for seven, and Diarrhoea and Epidemic Enteritis for ten.

The Notification of Births Act has been administered in your district by the County Council since March 31st, 1913. The district is supplied with a Lady Health Visitor, whose duties are to visit all births, Tuberculosis cases and School children reported by the School Medical Officer.

The following table shows the various rates of this district compared with those of the County :—

	County.	Tanfield.
Birth-rate (per 1000 population)	... 30·6	28·67
Death-rate ,, 15·1	12·8
Zymotic Death-rate ,, 1·85	1·88
Infantile Mortality rate (per 1000 births)...	137·	128·2
Small-pox ... (per 1000 population)	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever .. ,,	0·15	0·28
Diphtheria and }		
Membraneous Croup }	0·19	0·18
Enteric Fever ,,	0·06	Nil

		County.	Tanfield.
Measles	...	0·41	0·18
Whooping Cough	„	0·18	Nil
Diarrhoea and Epidemic Enteritis	„	0·85	1·22
Phthisis	...	0·89	0·66
Other Tubercular Diseases	„	0·53	0·18
Acute Respiratory Diseases	„	2·53	2·83

Attached are the various Government Schedules.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. BENSON,
Medical Officer.

The Urban District Council, Tanfield.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous
Years.

Name of District : Tanfield Urban.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number	Rate	cf Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages,	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate.
1908	9,600	355		36.99	142	14.8	7	9	38	107	144	15
1909	10,100	363		35.94	138	13.6	17	4	44	121.2	125	12.3
1910	10,600	329		31.03	118	11.13	13	5	35	106.2	110	10.37
1911	10,700	322	322	30.09	156	14.57	10	13	54	167.7	159	14.85
1912	10,500	319	320	30.47	146	13.9	7	9	38	119.1	148	14.09
1913	10,600	304	304	28.67	130	12.2	10	16	39	128.2	136	12.8

Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	4752	Total population at all ages, 10,105	} At Census, 1911 (cf. Census, Vol. V.)
		Number of inhabited houses, 2,008	
		Average number of persons per house, 5.03	

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages	At Ages 1—Years.								
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.		
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ...	37		5	31		1			27	
Erysipelas ...	28	1		2		14	11			
Scarlet fever ...	37		8	25	4				21	
Poliomyelitis ...	1		1							
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	21	1	1	4	3	10	1	1		
Other forms of Tuberculosis	26	3	5	11	3	4				
Totals	150	5	20	73	10	29	12	1	48	

Isolation Hospital } Tanfield Isolation Hospital, under the Lanchester Joint Hospital
or Hospitals, } Board (within the district) Maiden Law Sanatorium under the
Sanatoria, &c. } Durham County Council (outside the district.)

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District								Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-Residents" in Institutions in the District
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Uncertified	1						1		
Enteric Fever	...								
Measles	...	1		1					2
Scarlet Fever	...			1	2				3
Diphtheria and Croup	...				2				6
Influenza	...		1						
Phthisis	...								
(Pulmonary Tuberculosis)...	7					1	5	1	
Other Tuberculous Diseases...	2	1							
Cancer, malignant disease	8				1		2	3	3
Organic Heart Disease	12					1	3	2	6
Bronchitis	...								
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	7	1				1	3	5
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	21	10	8		1		1	3	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	13		1		1		1		
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	1								
Congenital Debility and Mal-formation, including Prema- ture Birth	4						1	3	1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	14	14							
Other Defined Diseases	4	1	1		1		3	1	8
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	27	5			2			8	6
Totals	136	39	12	2	10	3	16	24	30
Sub-Entries included in above figures								2	
Pneumonia	...								11

Infant Mortality.

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months,	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Measles								1	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis							1		1
Convulsions	1			1		1			2
Pneumonia (all forms) ...						4	1	2	7
{ Diarrhœa... ..			1	1			3		4
{ Enteritis					3	1	2		6
{ Congenital Malformations	3		1	4					4
{ Premature birth	1	1		2					2
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	4		1	5	2	1			8
Other Causes					1			3	4
Totals	9	1	3	13	6	7	7	6	39

Nett Births in the year {

 legitimate ... 297.

 illegitimate ... 7.

Nett Deaths in the year of {

 legitimate infants ... 39.

 illegitimate infants .. nil.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
14 Factories (including Factory Laundries) ..	28	Nil.	Nil.
21 Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	42	2	Nil.
Total	70	2	Nil.

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars,	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H M Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	1	Nil.
Want of ventilation	1	1	—	—
Total	3	3	1	

